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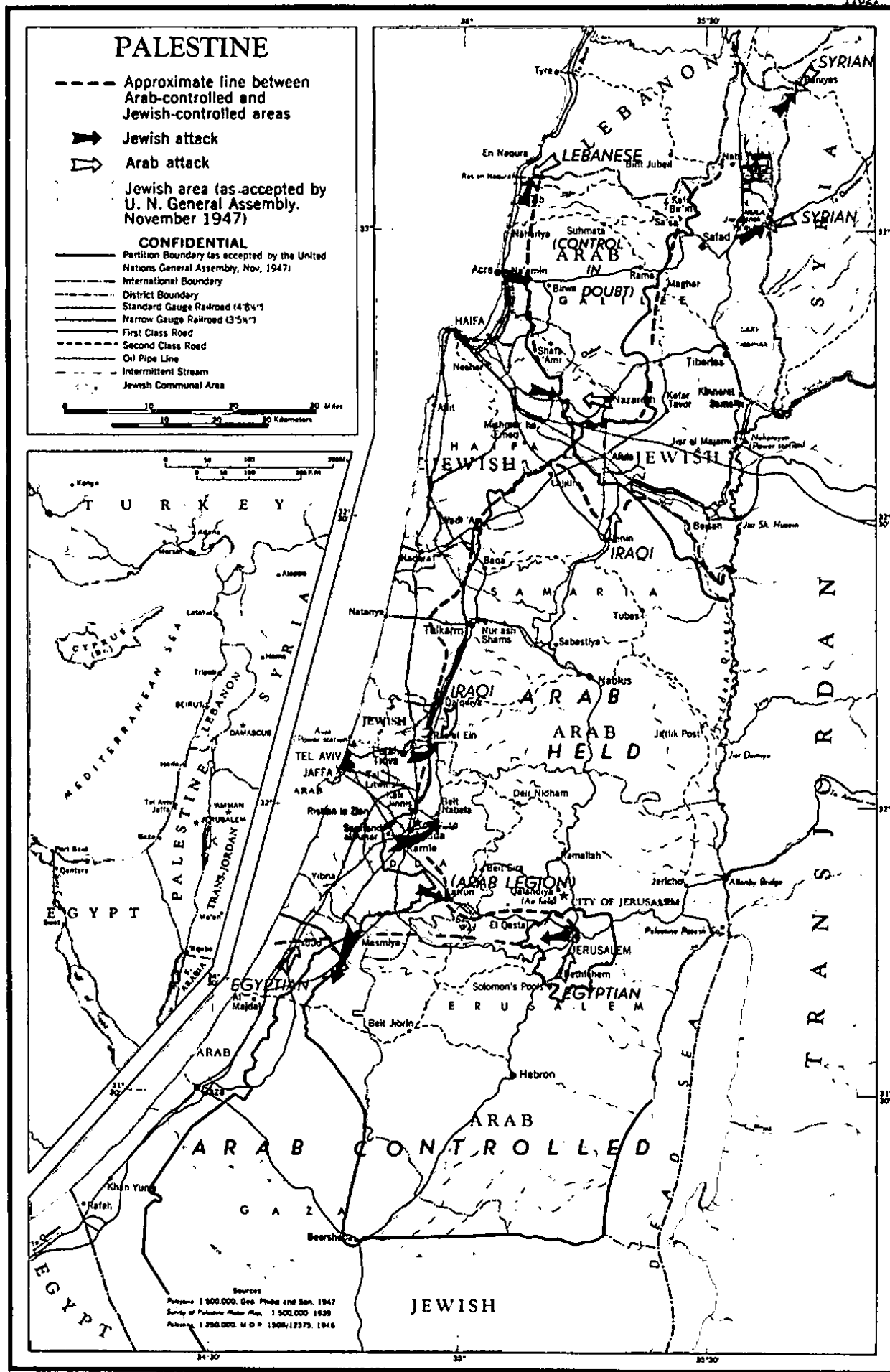
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending  
14 July 1948

Vol. III No. 27

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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## GREECE

Desperate guerrilla resistance is slowing down the progress of the Greek Army in the Grammos area. Only in the eastern sector of the pocket have any significant ground advances been made. In the northern sector the army has been forced to modify its original plans and bypass several guerrilla strong points near the Albanian border. Prisoners taken by the army indicate that the guerrillas, although poorly fed and clothed, are well equipped with ammunition and medical supplies, and that their morale has not been seriously impaired by the pounding they have taken from Greek artillery and aircraft. Moreover, guerrilla leaders are committing more men to the Grammos struggle, judging from the reported movement of three large bands (possibly totaling 2,300 men) westward to the battle area. Although some of these units may be deployed as diversionary groups instead of being used as reinforcements within the operational area, their commitment is good evidence of guerrilla determination.

A defeat in the Grammos battle would not bring about an immediate collapse of the guerrilla movement. However, a poor showing on the part of the guerrillas would probably convince the Kremlin that they were no longer deserving even of such material aid as they are now receiving from Albania and Bulgaria. In a supreme effort to forestall such a development, guerrilla leaders may decide to throw all of their available forces into the battle.

## TURKEY

The opposition Democratic Party deputies in the National Assembly staged their long-threatened walkout last week in protest against the government's refusal to meet fully their demands for electoral reform. Both parties had agreed on new legislation providing for a secret ballot followed by an open count of the votes. The point at issue was about who would do the counting. The government contended that civil service employees could handle the job adequately. To this the Democrats, naturally enough, raised violent objections, since most of the ballot-counters in Turkey's towns and villages would thus be government party supporters. The Democrats instead insisted, as a fundamental issue, that the balloting be supervised by a representative of each interested political party and be under control of the judiciary; when the government refused to give ground, they walked out. Unless some

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compromise is reached in the matter, it is probable that the Democrats will not return to the Assembly; in addition, they are likely to boycott the forthcoming by-elections.

For the second time within a year, a foreign airplane has landed in Turkey after the pilot who started it on its flight was murdered by one of the passengers. Last time (the first such case in legal history) the passengers and crew were Rumanians, in disagreement with one another upon the desirability of returning behind the iron curtain, once off the ground. The case was tried in a Turkish court and the man who killed the pilot convicted and given a mild sentence. On this occasion, all are Bulgarians, some of whom asked to be sent back to Bulgaria immediately. Others (including the alleged murderer, of course) are more than anxious to remain in Turkey. Having established legal precedent for such cases, the Turks will probably release those who wish to return to Bulgaria, after they are no longer needed to provide evidence, and allow the others to remain in Turkey (despite Bulgarian protests). The horrors of life behind the iron curtain will doubtless be given much publicity in the Turkish court, much sympathy for the refugees will be expressed, and the accused killer will probably be sentenced as lightly as his Rumanian predecessor.

#### PALESTINE

The improvement of the Jewish military position appears to be the most striking aspect of the situation as the fighting resumes in Palestine. Near Tel Aviv, Hagana forces have now captured Ramle and the important airport of Lydda, making it practically certain that the next big Jewish objective will be Latrun, the last major barrier to reopening of the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem supply road. Hagana and Irgun leaders are obviously satisfied with affairs in Jerusalem; in spite of spasmodic UN checking during the truce, the Jews have not only obtained large shipments of food and gasoline but have also proved their ability to smuggle in additional arms and ammunition by way of the newly built "Burma Road" from Tel Aviv. The recent Jewish seizure of the strategically located King David Hotel and other preparations indicate that the next Jewish move might be an attempt at reentering the Old City. Although the principal Jewish effort so far has been on the central front, some Israeli forces are working to neutralize Egyptian thrusts in the vicinity of Isdud, south of Tel Aviv, while other Jewish troops are engaged in consolidating Israel's control over Eastern and Western Galilee.

Although the Arab armies have also improved their positions somewhat during the truce, they have generally failed to obtain the initiative.

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Following the loss of Ramle and Lydda, apparently sustained by guerrillas in the absence of timely Arab Legion support, the only strong Arab threat to the Tel Aviv-Jersulem road is in the Latrun-Bab el Wad area. The Egyptian thrust northward along the coastal plain appears at least temporarily stalled near Isdud. Iraqi troops are reported to be shelling the Tel Aviv suburbs from the vicinity of Ras el Ain, other Iraqi forces are said to be attacking toward Afula in Galilee, and Syrian detachments have made some gains around Mishmar Hay Yarden in the Lake Hula region. Little evidence exists of Arab Legion activity, suggesting that Abdullah's forces may have been ordered to refrain from offensive operations. Meanwhile, there are indications that strong UN pressure to end the fighting might be welcomed by some Arab leaders as providing a means of withdrawing from their precarious military position without losing face among the Arab peoples.

## IRAN

Prime Minister Hajir's latest moves to consolidate his position include efforts to mollify extremist groups as well as preliminary feelers regarding US - UK assistance in easing the serious deterioration of living standards now taking place in Azerbaijan and elsewhere in Iran. A leftist newspaper editor and a pro-Soviet former deputy have been appointed political Under Secretary of State and permanent Under Secretary of the Ministry of National Economy respectively. Concurrently, Iran's reactionary religious element has been appeased by the imposition of severe restrictions during the holy month of Ramadan. Hajir risks the loss of many of his original supporters through such gestures, and it is probable that they will be even less successful than similar tactics used by the far more crafty Qavam during the early stages of his regime.

## INDIA

Tension in Kashmir has increased slightly after the recent lull in the fighting. The Indian Army has made only limited territorial gains in its current operations, but by inducing additional thousands of Moslems to flee Kashmir has both aggravated Pakistan's refugee problem and has eliminated potential pro-Pakistan votes in a plebiscite. The presence of at least 10,000 Pakistan Army troops in Kashmir is an additional complication; Pakistan military officials are again expressing the fear that open war will result from further Indian advances. Meanwhile the UN Kashmir Commission has arrived in New Delhi via Karachi. The Pakistan Government received the Commission cordially and India is expected to be hospitable. Nevertheless, neither dominion has shown a real disposition to work for a compromise.

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